PENNY-VVIS POVND FOOLISH

Or, a BRISTOVV Diamond, ſet in t Rings, and both Crack'd.

Profitable for Married men, pleaſant for young men, al rare example for all good Women.

At London Printed by *A. M.* for *Edward Blackmore*, and are to ſould in *Pauls* Church-yard, at the ſigne of the Angell. 1631.

To the Reader.

THe Title of this Booke is Printed in many a mans face. Some walke early into the Fieldes to Gleane Eares of Corne, who before the Harueſt of their Wit was in, ſcattered abroad whole Sheaffes. Wealth is not regarded till we come to Beggerie; Beauty an enticing Bauin-fire to warme fooles, and not ſette by, when tis out. Nay, life it ſelfe knowes not her owne pretious value, till Sickneſſe layes it in the Ballance.

How many Courtiers may heere ſee their pictures? How many braue Souldiers? How many Cittizens? How many Countrey-men? All which, were drunke with pleaſures, when they ſwumme in the full Sea of them; but now at a low ebbe, count a glaſſe of colde water more wholeſome, than Healthes in Canarie before. The lauiſh, and ſlauiſh, ſpending of pounds, begets but ſorrow; the True ſauing of a Penny, buyes Wiſedome.

The Epiſtle to the Reader.

In theſe few papers is the Map of the whole world; London, Briſtow, *and* Venice, *are (here) the Figures of all other Cittics. In all other Cities are Curtizans; and all Curtizans, haue Idolatrous fooles to Adore them. The Diſcourſe is hid, (like our Ladies heads in Taffatie purſe-nets) vnder the Maſques of* Ferdinand *and* Annabell. *Their Liues and their Loues are encloſed in this Nut-ſhell: Which, if you Crack, without hurting your Teeth, the Kernell is ſweet in the Chewing. The Apples pluck'd from this little Tree, may ſerue to turne in the Fire, in your Chriſtmaſſe Nights, and not much amiſſe all the Winter after. So fall to, and farewell.*

The

The Excellent worth of a Penny.

A Penny is a ſmall piece of Siluer, and therefore ſooneſt ſpent: a Penny is a very faithfull Meſſenger, & the beſt errand it goes vpon, is when a Rich man ſends his commendations by it to a Beggar. The Rich-man giues, and the Poore-man takes; no, the Poore-man giues, and the Rich-man takes, for the Prayers of the Poore, encreaſe the bleſsings of the Rich. Poore Penny, how much good therefore art thou able to doe; nay, how much good doeſt thou daily and hourely, when thoſe that are thy betters, and a thouſand times beyond thee in ſubſtance and eſtate, will not part from a farthing. A Penny is the Doale for which a wretched creature cries, Good Maſter beſtowe a Penny vpon mee: hee does not begge Two-pence, but a Penny, a ſingle Penny. A Penny will content a Carier, when a pound will not ſatisfie a Curmudgeon.

Land in olde times no doubt was ſold good cheape, for men vſed to ſay, They bought it with their Penny: But in theſe dayes the caſe is altred (quoth

(quoth *Ployden*;) Law hath raught Land-buyers to ſpeake another Language. A Penny had wont to pay for a Pot of happy Ale: but now a Pot of Ale defies the company of a Penny. And yet for all this, a Penny will be a braue companion ſtill: olde men loue it, and are therefore called Penny-Fathers: Trades-men loue it, for they cry, Take it for a Pennymore, Water-men loue it, for they aske but a Penny to croſſe the Water, and when a man hath not a Penny in his purſe, then he ſweares hee hath not one croſſe about him. So that as a Penny is the leaſt Croſſe that a man can carry, there can be no greater croſſe than for a man to goe without a Penny. A Blacke Wench, if ſhe be Penny-white, paſſes for current money, where a Faire Wench that hath no pence, ſhall be nayled vp for a counterfet.

A Penny then being in ſuch extraordinary requeſt, for the generall good it does to ſo many, how much more ought wee to make of it, when for a Penny a man may buy Wit? That Market does now begin; And how much Wit a Merchant had for ſo ſmall a piece of Siluer, lend your Attention, and the Hiſtory of that Penny-bargain, ſhall be worth at leſt two-pence to any man that heares it.

THE

Penny-wiſe, Pound-fooliſh: Or a *Briſtow* Diamond ſet in two Rings, and both crackt.

IN the Citty of Briſtow, not much aboue two twelue-moneths paſt, did liue a Merchant in the braue-ry of his youth, in the heigth of full fortunes, and in the excellency of all perfection, both for a comely proportion of body, and vnmatchable ornaments of minde. Hee had all thoſe things, which in this world make a man to be counted happy, and wanted none of thoſe, the lacke of which teach men to beleeue they are miſerable. One onely Bleſſing was abſent, whoſe poſſeſſion would haue ſet a Crowne vpon all the other, And that was the mariage of ſome delicate faire young woman, to ſo wealthy and handſome a young man.

This Gentlemans name will wee call Ferdinand, (his true both Chriſtian-name and ſurname for diuers reaſons ſhall be concealed.) And albeit, he might haue had in Briſtow the choiſe of many Maydens, both anſwerable to himſelfe in ſtate and beauty, (that Citty being as richly ſtored with faire and ſweet proportioned women as any be in the world: yet M. Ferdinand vſing often (by way of Trafficke in Merchandize) to repaire to London, happened to caſt his eye on the moſt beautifull face of a very worthy, and very wealthy Cittizens daughter of London, her name being Annabell, but how ſhe was called otherwiſe, her ſucceeding fortunes forbid mee to diſcouer.

The parents and friends of this beauteous Damozell (who was called the ſtarre of this Citty, as well for her delicacie of body, as for modeſty,) giuing way to a Match ſo ſuitable to their owne deſires, and their daughters liking, little wooing needed, ſo that the marriage was not ſo ioyfully on all ſides appointed, as it was with pompous ceremony of friends inuited, Feaſtings, Maſques, Dauncing, and Reueling ſolemnized. No couple through the whole Citty of London, were held ſo happy as theſe beauteous payre: Ferdinand and Annabell drew all eyes after them whereſoeuer they went. But it was not enough for Ferdinand to be thus followed with praiſes in London; nor to haue his delicate young wife gazed at, and enuied by the curious Dames of this Citty: No, there was a fire of Vaine-glory in him, to haue all the eyes of Briſtow behold what gallant Prize he had taken at London, nor was the beauty of his faire Bed-fellow behinde-hand with him, in the ſame pride and ambition. Her longings that way were as great as his.

Their deſires thus ſpreading the ſame wing, the parents and friends loath to looſe two ſuch Jewels, yet neceſſity ſnatching them from them. Away doe they haſten to Briſtow. Wonder there lookes vpon them, Ioy and ten thouſand welcomes embrace them: It was hard to tell whether the Merchants of that Towne did think him more happy in being Maſter of ſuch a treaſure, as ſo delicate a Wife, or whether the braue Dames of that Citty did hold her more fortunate, in being lodged euery night within the armes of ſo handſome a Husband. But Admiration being neuer long-liu'd, let vs after a quarter or halfe a yeares entertainment of Miſtris Annabell, amongſt her Husbands friends in Briſtow, leaue her there, attended vpon with all thoſe commendable glories which ſet forth excellent Women, whilſt we follow him backe againe from Briſtow to London.

Whither

Whither being come and welcommed by his Wifes father and kindred, Ioyes were redoubled to heare of her health, and to ſee his welfare. In a ſhort time had hee diſpatched the buſineſſe, for which he came touching his Merchandize, to finiſh which he made the more haſt, as thinking euery day ſpent here, a thouſand yeares loſt at home, vntill againe hee might reſt in the boſome of his beloued, but though the Sayles of his deſire and affection were ſpread faire, yet the windes grew churliſh, they bluſtred and conſpired to part our two new-married Louers aſunder: For, the bracery of this Briſtow-Merchants minde being obſerued by our Gallants here in the Citty, his comlineſſe of perſon, affability in language, and loyalty in expences, kindled a fire of good liking in many, to be partners in his ſociety; And hee tooke as great a glory to enioy their appointments and meetings, as they did his.

Youth led him on to theſe ingagements of pleaſure; New acquaintance (which ſtill grew faſter and faſter vpon him) begat new inuitations, thoſe inuitations brought forth new delights, and thoſe delights, ſerued as pullies to draw on freſher and larger expences; All theſe ſeruing together as ſo many hookes, nay as ſo many caſt-Anchors, to faſten him from ſetting forward in his intended voyage homeward.

In this multiplicity of acquaintance, Iollities and Ieuiall meetings, Ferdinand did often happen into the familiarity of diuers Merchants Wiues of London, whoſe beauties (though they were excellent) and behauiours able to tempt any man, to admire and dote vpon them, yet to him they were but as colours to a blinde man: the muſicke of their enchanting tongues but ſongs to the deafe: he had (as he thought) a brighter ſtarre of his owne to ſayle by: theſe painted fires gaue to him no heate, the ſunne-beames that lent warmth to him, were thoſe which were ſhot from the ſparkling eyes of his

moſt dearely-beloued Annabell.

The Fates had ſpunne good and euen threeds for him, had they ſtill continued winding vpon this white bottome, but then altred the Diſtaffe, and ſo drew out his miſery, and his Wiues misfortune.

This conſtancy of his, was but a watry ſunne-ſhine; it ſeemed built vpon a rocke, but the foundation was not ſound; this Oake that ſtoode vp ſo high and ſtrong, in reſolution neuer to be ſhaken with any allurements, is now in danger to be riuen in ſunder, and cleft euen to the roote, by the lightning flying from the eyes of a ſtrange woman.

For one day chancing in a company of young Gallants like himſelfe, to fall into priuate diſcourſe, with a delicate creature, rich in Attire, coſtly in Jewels, rare in the proportion both of face and body, ſweet in voyce, and of a winning bewitching behauiour, Ferdinand was on a ſuddaine taken priſoner by her beauty. Her charmes were ſtrong, and hee lay faſt bound in them. Shee vpon this firſt comming into the field, made ſuite to be her ſeruant, and ſhe after a few ſlight ſkirmiſhing words, yeelded her ſelfe to be his Miſtreſſe. The next day, he woed his young Miſtreſſe, that her ſeruant might be ſo happy, as to be ſuffered to viſite her at her own lodging: And ſhe feeling what fiſh nibled at her bayte, gaue him line and leaue enough to play, and told him, ſhe was not ſo vnworthy as not to bid ſo new, and ſo noble a ſeruant welcome.

The day wearing away, and the aſſembly in which Ferdinand and his new-found Lady had beene merry together, being weary of their pleaſures (as feaſting, dancing, drinking healthes, courting, and ſuch like,) the Spell brake, and diſſolued thoſe chaines, which had almoſt a whole day bound them within this circle. Night approched, and all parted.

Ferdinand being come home, and locking himſelfe into his priuate Chamber, hee begins thus to contemplate

vpon

vpon the beauties, graces, and perfections of his rare and moſt admired Miſtreſſe if euer man met an Angell vpon earth, in the ſhape of a woman, this is ſhee: if euer woman was to worthy to be touched by any man, this was ſhee. Had ſhe beene borne when Idolatry was firſt committed, to her onely had the heathen giuen adoration. In faſhioning her Idæa, or the figure of her body in his phantacy, her eyes through the windowes of his ſoule, preſented themſelues to him like a paire of ſtarres. Her face he called the Maſter-peece of all Art, ſweetneſſe, and proportion, to equall which, nay to come but neere it in picture, it was not poſſible for any Painter in the world to doe it with his Penſill: Her hand he called his booke of palmeſtry her foote the firſt ſteppe to the ſtateliеſt Meaſure, that euer was proſecuted by Motion: In briefe, her whole body (to the eye of his imagination) appeared a Mine, ſtored with treaſures beyond all valuation. No Arithmetick could ſumme vp her excellencies, no figures ſet downe the hopes of that happineſſe which he conceiued in his vnmatchable Miſtreſſe.

But after his cogitations had thus ranne diuiſion on her praiſes, his Vnderſtanding began to fall into another tune, and his Memory to be ſet to this Note, to call to minde his deare and diſconſolated Annabell in Briſtow: preſenting her therefore to his Remembrance, and the full volume of all her Vertues, being printed in his ſoule, he thus brake forth into a paſſionate reprehenſion of his new-conceiued folly.

And ſhall thy youth, thy beauty, thy integrity, modeſty, and innocence (O my deareſt ſweet-heart) be by me forgotten? can I proue a traytor to thy pillow, who (I dare ſweare it) art moſt true to mine? Muſt all my vowes made to thee when I woo'd thee, all thoſe Matrimoniall obligations, which I ſealed to thee before Angels in the holy Temple, and all thoſe proteſtations I left in kiſſes vpon thy lips, when I late and laſt parted

from thee, muſt all this be forgotten, all written in ſand, and left floating on the water! O Villaine that I am, to fixe mine eye on a Beade of worthleſſe chriſtall, and preferre it before the rareſt Diamond in the world: this woman ſure, who hath made choyſe of mee to be her ſeruant, is ſome Mermayde enticing mee to runne vpon the rockes of deſtruction: Stop then thine eares, and auoyde the danger by not liſtning to her enchantments. A Goddeſſe is ready to receiue thee into her armes at home, and a painted Witch opens hers, to kill thee in her falſe embraces abroade; I will not be caught by this ſorcerous woman, I muſt not, I dare not.

At this he fetched a deepe ſigh, And then his ſoule and her entring into conference together; Why (quoth hee) though I haue all the delicateſt meates ſtanding on mine owne table, may not I ſit downe at another mans board. What Wife is true to her Husband Why then ſhould any Husband be true to his Wife? Wee are all borne free, why ſhould marriage make vs bondſlaues? Shall the ceremony onely of a golden Ring, be a charme to binde me from enioying my pleaſures? I am ſatisfied with a Wife, cloyed with her enioyments, my appetite is young, and muſt taſt varieties. The fiſhes in the ſea are not married; birdes in the ayre chooſe their Valentines, and that's their wedding; All the beaſts vpon earth haue a liberty in deſires to range how they will, and to take whom they will, why then ſhould man be made a captiue to any woman? O my ſweeteſt, deareſt, moſt delicious Miſtreſſe, I dye if I liue not to doe thee ſeruice, I cannot be beaten from thee with frownes, with ſwords, with Death: yes, Death onely can force our ſeperation, nothing elſe ſhall.

Hauing thus ſpent the night in theſe paſſionate perturbations, the morning ſummoned him to appeare before the Saint he ſo honoured. Vp in all haſt hee riſes, and haſtens to the lodging of his Miſtreſſe, who not

walking

willing to loſe ſuch a golden Flie, as ſhe made account this her new Burning-ſeruant would proue, was weauing her curious Lome-workes, with the beſt and ſureſt Art ſhe could. For ſhe left her bed betimes, to make her face by painting ſhew more excellent, which of it ſelfe was absolute before: He came, and ſaluted, and kiſt her, and in that kiſſe, felt all his bloud put into a terrible burning: he ſaw her in bravery, rich as a Queene, bright in Jewels as the morning-ſunne, breathing from her apparell, perfumes more pretious than thoſe which the Spring giues to the earth: hee ſaw her, and ſtoode aſtonished to behold her: hee ſaw her, and forgat that euer he ſaw a Wife, to whom his eyes did owe that duty and tribute which he payde to a Curtizan. But ſhee to put him out of this traunce, tooke her Lute, which ſhe touched ſweetly, and ſung to it more ſweetly, and by this ſtriuing to awaken him, ſhee caſt him into a deeper ſleepe: out of which againe ſhe ſtartled him by the Magick of her enticing lips, on which dwelling with a languiſhing delightfull pleaſure, taſted, nay was ſo filled with ſweets, that he thought one Apple in this Garden, worth a whole Orchard of his Wifes at home.

Dalliance thus charming them into a liking one of another, Ferdinand vowes euer to be hers, and none but hers, ſhe ſweares euer to be his, and none but his.

Dayes, weekes, and moneths were conſumed between theſe two vnchaſt Louers, in all kindes of varied pleaſures, that wyt could inuent. There was no new faſhions in apparell, but ſhe had them; no Jewell (how coſtly ſoeuer) but ſhee was Miſtreſſe of it. A Caroach and Coach-horſes he bought for her, in which he and ſhe together were ſometimes whorried to Play-houſes, ſometimes to Brainford, to lye there, then to Barnet, to lye there, then to Bow to be merry there, then to Black-wall to ſee the Ships there, and then to Bloomesbury to ſolace themſelues there. And ſo to all bawdy Bees lying neere and about London.

His

His Wife ſeeing her Beloued ſtay beyond the time limitted by himſelfe for his returne, at firſt began to wonder, then to miſtruſt, then to lament for his abſence. But ill newes being ſwifter of wing than any other bird, came flying into Briſtow, and alighting in Annabells eare, (that was open day and night liſtning for ſome good tydings of her loſt Huſband) did there ſing to her a ſad note of the lewd and laſciuious courſes of Ferdinand with a Courtizan. Hereupon ſhee tore her haire, beat her white breaſts, curſed her hard fortunes, and wiſh'd that either ſhe had beene borne deformed, that none might euer haue loued her, or that her face had been made as enticing as that Strumpets, on whom her Huſband doates, for then ſhe had kept him to her ſelfe, where now in this wandring ſhee is in danger to loſe him for euer. To poaſt after him to London, would but proclaime his faults, which ſhe was willing to hide from the world: to come and teare out thoſe bewitching eyes of his Harlot, ſhe had not a heart to hurt, that which her Huſband had choſen to loue ſo dearely. Wauering thus betwixt many doubts & feares, fed with hopes, that yet he would come home, & frighted with deſpaire, that ſhe ſhould neuer more ſee him, (for ſinne is a luſcious meate, and the more we taſte it, the more we deſire it: It is a Sea, and being once got into it, (without a good Pilot) tis not ſo eaſie to returne againe to ſhoare:) vpon theſe conſiderations, ſhe writ many louing Letters, to call and recall her deare Huſband home. But he (as the papers came) ſtill ſhe. ing them to his Miſtreſſe, the paſſions of a Wife, were communicall Playes to a Strumpet: the teares which the one ſent, dropping on the Letters as ſhe writ them, were pledg'd in kiſſes by the other, on her Huſbands cheekes, and in Claret-wine and Sugar. The young Womans Father and friends likewiſe hearing of theſe diſſolute courſes taken by Ferdinand, found him out, and both by ſoft perſwaſions,

and

and harſh threatnings did their beſt to winne him to his Wife, but he laugh'd to ſcorne their counſell.

At laſt, the bonefires of his prodigality being almoſt burnt out, his purſe ſhrinking, his money melting, his credite decaying, and his debts encreaſing to ſuch a mountaine, it was not poſſible for him to climbe well ouer them, without tumbling into one of the Compters, hee priuately with many oſtentations and oathes to his Miſtreſſe, to returne from Briſtow ſo ſoone as hee could furniſh himſelfe there with moneyes, take his leaue of her, ſhe diſtilling from her eyes ſome fewe drops of hot waters, which her faigned ſorrow dranke off to him, to comfort his heart, at the farewell: but ſhe hauing other ſickles to cut downe her corne than his, the ſhower of teares which ſhe rayned vpon her whoriſh cheekes being ſoone dried vp, the ſtorme was quickly blowne ouer, and ſhe was to prouide for another golden harueſt.

But leaue we her, plucking pleaſure and diſeaſes out of one and the ſame Well: and let vs follow him to Briſtow: whither being ſecretly come, and with all expreſſions of a noble, louing, and forgiuing Wife, welcommed by the vertuous Annabell: ſhee weeped for ioy, and as ſhe weeped, mildly chid him, and as ſhe chid him, gaue him a thouſand kiſſes.

Be aſhamed to abuſe ſuch an excellent Goodneſſe, ſhut vp his wrongs to her in as ſweete language, as he could handſomly meete with; and told her, there was no ſtaying for him in ſafety either in Briſtow or London: his eſtate (he ſaid) was weake, yet not ſo weake, but that he had a ſtaffe to hold it vp from falling, and that was certaine bigges of money, left in a truſty friends hands, when he departed for London, which money hee would cloſely, and inſtantly diſburſe in Merchandize, and in ſome good Shippe (of which he himſelfe would be Captaine) and with a Ging of good fellowes, try his fortune at Sea: Shee vnwillingly-willing, yeelds to this, ſo in-

to the Straights hee venturer.

At Scanderoone hee goes on ſhore, and vents ſuch Commodities as hee had by Caravans, vp at Aleppo, amongſt the Turkes, and ſuch Chriſtian Merchants as there were in Trafficke: in ſo much, that by his induſtrie and knowledge in Commerce, he might haue made a reaſonable good voyage, if vpon the ſale of his Wares brought thither, and lading his Ship with Commodities from thence, hee had returned home, without encountring any ſecond fortune. But Heauen ſmiling vpon him, appointed a Turkiſh Pirate (richly furniſhed) to ſet vpon the Captaine of Brittow, and his mad merry company: who were all Engliſh-men, courageous, skilfull, reſolute, and tall Seamen, euery one of them ſwearing to liue and dye with their noble Captaine.

The Turke ſet vpon them, they bravely returned an Engliſh defiance. The Turkes called vpon Mahomet, the Chriſtians cried St. George, but called vpon Him whom they knew could helpe them. The Fight was ſhort, but cruell, the victory doubtfull, but ſpeedy; for the Turkiſh Pirate being boarded, and as faſt throwne ouer-board, as the Engliſh could enter, a noble and rich ſpoile was made, the true man robd the thiefe: Captaine Ferdinands Ship was doubly laden, with treaſure, and with acclamations of ioy, the Turkes went ſneaking to their holes, and the Engliſh put in at a hither part of Chriſtendome, to refreſh their wounded men, and to giue them good victuals.

I muſt here put you in minde of one thing, which before when Ferdinand was to come from Brittow, I ſhould haue remembred, and that was this: At the time when he was ready to prepare for his Sea-voyage, he told his Wife, All that he could get together, was little enough to furniſh him forth for ſo waighty a buſineſſe, yet hee would leaue ſufficient to maintaine her in his abſence: And then merrily aſking her what ſhee would venture

with

with him, she answered, shee would aduenture all that she had, and that was her body, and her poore life: no, sayes her Husband, you shall not: I will not hazard all our substance in one bottome: Why then, quoth shee, though my body must stay at home, my heart shall goe with you, and vpon what shoare so euer you land, my good wishes for your prosperity, and prayers for your health shall euer wayte vpon you as your seruants: And yet because it shall not be said, but that both by Sea and Land, my fortunes shall still set their fate by yours, I will put in my share in your Aduenture: What (my good sweet-heart said her Husband:) Sir, replyed his Wife, you haue often layd out much money, which neuer brought home any profit, I dare therefore not trust you with much; All that I put into your hands, is onely one single penny. Hee smiling vpon her, asked what he should doe with that penny; marry (quoth shee) onely buy and bring home for that mony a penny-worth of wit. Hee glad to see her so pleasantly conceited, protested hee would lay out her money, to the best aduantage he could: and so take his leaue of her.

You heard before, that after the Fight was ended betweene Ferdinand and the Turkish Pirates our Carrifow Captaine went on shoare to refresh his men. During his absence in a Port-towne of Spain (called Saint Lucar de Barame a in Andalozia, for there his Ship put in,) one of the Marriners who stayd aboard, (being a merry conceipted fellow, and one that knew all the passages of Ferdinands life, all his wilde humours, and mad fits playde betweene him, his Wife, and his Curtizan) intending to put some merriment vpon his Captaines shoulder, disguised his face like to a tanned Gipsey, and put himselfe into nothing but ragges, like a begger, and in this manner stayd waiting on the shore, till his Captaine was to come backe to take shipping: Ferdinand being then passing by him, this supposed Rogue, setting

out a wide throate, cryed out in a bigge voyce, Noble Captaine, braue honeſt Captaine, beſtowe one ſingle penny vpon a poore man, vpon an Engliſh man, vpon your Countryman; that ſhall pray you may haue a braue voyage, good worthy Captaine, one penny, one poore ſingle penny.

Ferdinand hearing the name of Engliſhman, and that word, ſingle penny, caſt his eye backe vpon my counterfet beggar, and the ſound of ſingle penny put him in minde of his Wife, and her venture of a penny, and what he was to buy with it. So, turning to the Fellow, Troth honeſt Countrey-man (ſaid he) for ſo I perceiue thou art by thy tongue; what thou begg'ſt for I haue about me, and ſo drew forth his Wifes penny; lacke thou, here's a new ſingle penny, but I haue other imployment for it, than to beſtow it on a Beggar, for it is an aduenture put into my hands by my Wife, and I am to buy with it, for her, a penny-worth of wit.

O Maſter, cries the Begger, you were better giue me the penny, than trauaile ſo long, till you buy ſo rich a commodity as Witte, for ſo poore a ſumme of money. Many come into this Countrey, and others on this ſide the Seas, and ſpend they care not what, onely to get wit, and knowledge, and experience, but in the end returne home as arrant Coxcombes as I did, when I came from trauell. Many a thouſand pound haue I layde out to purchaſe Wit, but I could neuer reach to ſo much as a farthings worth. Thou many a hundred pounds (ſaid Ferdinand,) Yes Captaine (anſwered the Begger) no diſpraiſe to your perſon, I once held my ſelfe as braue a Gallant as your ſelfe: my Silkes and Sattins on my backe, men at my heeles, roaring Boyes at my beck, my Comrades at a call. And how (quoth the Captaine) comm'eſt thou to be ſo poore? I will tell you how (ſaid tother.) One part of my mony ranne away with Come on ſire, and Come on ſeuen: I could play at Novum,

Pa..age,

Paſſage, In and In, Pum Chance, at Tables, Iriſh, Lick-jack, any thing, at Cardes, Paw, Sant, Primero, Primauiſta, Glecke, Poaſt and Paire, Whiſke, all Games, Noddy, and any Game where a Knaue was to be turn'd vp. All the money I either wonne or loſt this way, went ſure to the Deuill, for I had it with damnable ſwearing, and parted from it, with abominable tearing of God, blaſphemy, and curſing. Another part of my money melted away in Sack and Claret, but I lick'd my lips prettily well at this Feaſt; for I met for my money, Wine, good Cheere, good Fires, good Wenches, good Muſick, and good knocking Reckonings. A third part of my money I ſpent, nay, caſt away vpon a Whore, a dainty one, a young one, a proud one. So long as my ſiluer laſted, her brazen-face was alwayes at my noſe, kiſſing me: but when my cheekes grew leane, and my Pockets empty, away flies my Wag-tayle. Now my noble Captaine, if (as I know moſt of our Engliſh Gallants doe) you haue a liquerish tooth in your head, and keepe a Punk, hang her, dam her, truſt her not, ſhee le graze vpon thy meddow ſo long, as there's a blade of graſſe, that gone, ſhee leapes ouer hedge and ditch into any Butchers Pasture. But if (my braue Captaine and Countryman) thou haſt a Wife, kiſſe her, coll her, truſt her, try her, for ſhee will runne for Aqua-vitæ to recouer thy fortunes, when thy Cockatrice ſhall caſt them into a ſwound. Should thy Shippe lye here vpon a ſand, and could not ſtirre for want of water to fetch thee off, thy Strumpet would not throw out the Baſon in which ſhee waſhes her hands (vnleſſe for her owne benefit) where thy Wife (if thou haſt a good one) would draw a ſea out of her eyes to ſaue thee from ſinking.

The Captaine hearing the Beggerman talke thus, with a ſmiling countenance, gaue him his Wifes ſingle penny, and told him, he did not thinke, but that the mo-

ney was layde out as ſhe deſired: for that penny ſhould peraduenture ſend him and his Ship home with a richer Lading, than fiue hundred pound could furniſh him with: And ſo thanking the poore fellow for his Diſcourſe, hee gaue him beſides at parting, foure peeces of Eight for a farewell to drinke his Health, which the Begger ſwore he would doe. Ferdinand preſently gets aboard to make for England, and the mad Mariner as nimbly teares off his ragges (vnknowne to any man) and leapes into the Ship almoſt as ſoone as the Captaine.

In this interim of Ferdinands being at Sea, his faire Miſtreſſe, wondring at his long abſence, conſidering his vehement oathes (with all ſpeede poſſible to returne) and being loath to loſe ſuch a Gold-Finch, that ſung ſo ſweetly in her eare: ſhee (partly for a kinde of loue ſhee bare him (he being a very proper man) but chiefely for his eſtate, which ſhe knew was great, and to catch which ſhe did angle) came in her thundering Caroath like ſome great Lady to Briſtow, with this reſolution, If Ferdinand were there, then to enioy him as before, if not there, yet ſhe would repaire her loſſes and charge of the Journey vpon any other whom ſhe next lighted on, fit to be made a property, as no doubt but Briſtow had ſtore of ſuch tame fowle, as well as any other Citty. Her wiſhes and intentions hit the markes ſhe ſhot at: for Marſell, gentle, in abundance came to the caſt of our ſhee-Faulkoner.

By this time, (winde and weather fauouring him) Ferdinand is as ſecretly arriued at Briſtow; as hee departed cloſely from thence: and ſtepping priuately to a deare friend, enquires what newes in the Towne, how all the mad Gules did, and what new Wenches were come to Briſtow; ſo that in the end by way of merry Diſcourſe, and deſcanting vpon other Women, he perceiu'd (but conceal'd it) that his Miſtreſſe had followed him thither, and his heart (leaning to his old byas) began

gan almoſt to leape for ioy, to thinke that hee found his noble ſweat-heart ſo kinde. But then remembring his Wifes ſingle penny, and the Beggers counſaile, hee meant to make triall what his Wifes Venture would come to; and ſo putting himſelfe into ragges like a Begger, with a ſhort Cudgell in his hand, he found out her lodging, and knock'd to ſpeake with her. One of her ſeruants being ſuch a totterdemalion Raſcall, enquired ſcurrilly what he would haue; tother replied as ſcurrilly, I muſt ſpeake with your Lady or Miſtreſſe: Away you lowzie Slaue, cried the Pandar, my Miſtreſſe a companion for ſuch a Pitty-patch as thou art, to talke to her! but my counterfet Briſtow-Wanderer, in a very pittifull voyce told him, that hee had Letters from one her friend a Merchant, and ſomewhat elſe by word of mouth to deliuer to her.

Vpon this he was called vp into her Chamber, and then requeſting to deliuer his meſſage in priuate; all were commanded out of the roome, but him ſelfe and her, and then aſking, if ſhe knew him not by his voyce, (for by his tattred attire and face ſhe could not) he told her, he was that Ferdinand, whom once ſhe loued ſo dearely, and ſhee that Miſtreſſe of his that commanded both his life and fortunes; all the happineſſe hee had on earth, was to enioy her preſence: tells her how he was taken Priſoner by the Turke, made a Gally-ſlaue, tugg'd at the Oare, had an hundred blowes on the naked backe with a Bulls pezell, fed on courſe browne-bread and water, and hardly got away (but moſt miraculouſly) with life; entreates her (what needes intreaties) her preſumes ſhee is ſo noble, that ſhe will lodge him in her boſome as ſhee had wont; prayes her to ſend into the Towne for cloathes to make him braue, for good cheere to fill his belly, for ſome cleane linnen, for he was lowſie, and that hee might haue a good fire to ſhift himſelfe by: But ſhe caſting an eye of ſcorne at his beggerly, re-

uiled

miled him, kick'd at him, bid him Auant, called for her ſeruants to thruſt him out of doores: but he falling on his knees, begg'd as ſhee was a Woman, to let him lye in ſome Hay-loft, in ſome Stable, vpon a heape of Horſe-dung, for ſince his comming to ſhoare, hee had killed a man that miſuſed him; and if ſhee turned him out of doores, it was his aſſured death and confuſion. Nay, you baſe ſcum (cried ſhe) and in tumbling him into the ſtræt, ſhut the doores vpon him.

He then (all ragged as he was) went in priuate home to his Wife; ſhee for all the miſery round about him, knew his face, hung about his necke, wept for ioy, and enquired what miſchance ſent him to her in this pittifull eſtate. He told her, his Ship was burnt by Pirates, his Goods taken from him, his men ſlaine, and himſelfe onely ſcaped with life. And that's all (quoth his Wife) which I deſire: let Ship, Goods, and all be loſt, ſo I finde thee: my Rings, Iewels, Plate, nay, my owne apparell Ile preſently pawne, or ſell out-right, to furniſh my deere Huſband fitting to his worth: but he ouer-ioyed at this her admirable loue, and vnfaigned expreſſions of a noble Wife, pluck'd off his ragges, and vnder them diſcouered a faire habite; but entreating her, to pardon his abſence for an houre or two, for the diſpatch of a moſt eſpeciall buſineſſe, hee leaues her full of ioy, both at his vnexpected Arriuall, and at his proſperous Voyage, of which in ſome fewe words, hee gaue her a firme aſſurance.

Ferdinand then richly attiring himſelfe, and taking foure or fiue of his Marriners, neatly apparelled, paſſed by the Curtizans doore once or twice; ſhee ſpying him, ſent after him, the ſeruant ſaying, his Miſtreſſe entreated him by any meanes to come backe, and ſpeake with her. He did ſo, when ſhe at his entrance into her Chamber, ranne and fell vpon his cheekes, printing on them and his lips an 100. kiſſes, and telling him that a baſe

Raſcall

Raſcall, in ſhape of a Begger, came to her, and tooke his name vpon him. That very Begger, ſweeteſt Miſtreſſe (quoth Ferdinand) was I my ſelfe, and came to you in that pouerty, to try if you would releeue mee, but it was an eaſie matter for you to ſcorne me, as not knowing me in that loathſome apparence, I therefore pardon it; and to ſhew, how deepely (euen in abſence) you were printed in my memory, and that you are to me the ſame beloued Miſtris, that heretofore you haue bin; behold, as a part of my good Voyage, I preſent to your white hands this rich Cabinet, full of the moſt pretious Jewels, that are to be found in this part of the world. Shee was reaching out her hands to lay hold vpō them. But (quoth he) my moſt endeared Miſtreſſe, I remember I haue giuen you many Rings, Bracelets of Diamonds, Chaines of Pearles and Gold, and many coſtly Jewels, I doubt in my abſence you haue beſtowed theſe vpon ſome other ſweethearts: ſhew mee theſe therefore, and I ſhall be in the better hope, that for my ſake you will preſerue theſe likewiſe.

Hereupon, ſhee fetches all the braueries, and coſtly gifts that he euer preſented to her; which ſcene, he ſeiz'd vpon them, told her, he found her to be a Briſtow Diamond, ſhe was a cunning, a cheating, and hard-hearted Curtizan; and ſo giuing her ſufficient meanes and money (for his owne reputation ſake) to rid her from Briſtow, and ſhip her for London: on his Wife he beſtowed all thoſe Jewels, and tolde her, that the Wit which he brought with the ſingle Penny, ſhee ventured in his Ship, was worth all the Merchandize he brought home beſides.

The Bed where a Huſband and Wife lyes, is that Muſicke-roome, where the ſoules of them both play in the moſt excellent Conſort: All Diſcords [illegible] are here put into time, all Jarres ſo winded vp, with [illegible] ſtrings

of Concord, that no Harmony can be ſweeter. Such a Bed is an Altar, where a paire of loving Hearts are offered, and no gall mingled with the Sacrifice. Such a Bed is a Cradle, where pleaſure, content, and all earthly happineſſe rocke man and wife a ſleepe: kiſſes perfuming the pillowes, as if they were bankes of Roſes, and warme teares of ioy (there to be reconciled one to another) being the ſoft ſhowers, that make thoſe Roſie kiſſes grow fairer, and in more abundance.

Ferdinand (our young and now rich Merchant of Briſtow,) enioying his beauteous Annabell, a whole night together: the pleaſure of their embraces, were encreaſed, by his relation of his wilde courſes, dalliances, and delights which he tooke at London, in that bewitching Miſtreſſe of his (the Curtizan) but ten times more doubled in her free, and noble forgiuenеſſe, of whatſoeuer had paſſed betweene them. Hee (thereupon) promiſed to be to his Wife, a new man, a new-molded Huſband, and ſhe vowed to him, to be an euer-loyall, and euer-louing Wife.

Whilſt thus they lay talking, the Sunne caſting his eye vpon them in at the window, tolde them, it was time to riſe, and that the Marriners who ventured their liues and fortunes with him in his Voyage, were all attending for him. Vpon this ſummons of the Sunne, they both forſooke their Beds, made them ready, and came downe: Ferdinand deliuering to euery one of them, whatſoeuer in right they could claime for wages, or any thing elſe, and withall (becauſe they ſhould not report they met with an vnworthy or ingratefull perſon) hee beſtowed vpon them (as his bounteous gift) twenty pounds amongſt them all, ouer and aboue their due, to drinke his Wifes Health and his, at a Dinner or Supper, which they with merry countenances, ſeeme to performe. And then Ferdinand (his Wife the faire Annabell being by) relating how happily he met with a poore

Begger

Begger, at his returne to his Ship, when they went a ſhoare in Spaine, and that beſtowing his Wifes ſingle Penny vpon that poore man; hee found ſince, that the penny-worth of Wit (which the Begger gaue him there, and ſerued him well to for ſo little money) had done him a great deale of good ſince his Arriuall, and that to the laſt day of his life, hee would be a faire gayner by the Beggers bargaine. Annabell ſmiling, tolde him, Hee was as much or more beholding to her, as to that poore man, for that her Venture of a ſingle Penny, was the firſt and principall occaſion of meeting ſo excellent and vnvalluable a commodity as Wit. Hee confeſt it, and tolde his wife, before all thoſe witneſſes, that hee was deepe in her debt.

But then the Marriner, who counterfaited the Begger, not being able to glew vp his lips any longer, tolde them all, that hee was that Rag-a-muffin, who begg'd an Almes on the ſhoare, onely to put his Captaine in minde of his Wife, and her Penny, becauſe hee knew how the ſingle Penny was deliuered, and therefore in his Beggerly Oration to him, hee touch'd him to the quicke, as knowing into how many wilde and crooked currents the ſtreame of his Captaines life had runne; yet if this bolde attempt of his had ſucceeded well, hee hoped his offence, was the more eaſily pardoned. Pardoned (quoth Annabell!) yes, and rewarded too: and thereupon, remembring and putting her Huſband in minde of his owne words in Bed to her, which were, that but for the aduice the ſuppoſed Begger gaue him for his Penny, he had neuer put that triall vpon his Curtizan, but doubtleſſe (comming home ſo rich) had both powred and rayned downe golden ſhowers into her lap, and his ſoule (as before) into her boſome: ſhe therefore hung about her Huſbands necke, and for the content ſhe her ſelfe encountred with, by this Marriner (whoſe name was Theobald) as alſo for the bleſſing heauen crown'd

his owne life with, by the hands of that good Seaman, she entreated, nay, importunately begg'd, nay by all the bonds of affection betweene them, coniured him, to make vp that single Penny hee gaue him, a full one hundred pounds, and so set him a floate in the world.

Ferdinand being willing to winne his Annabell to him by any meanes, sithence hee had giuen her iust cause for euer to lose her: and considering, the request, easie (in regard it was but a droppe to the full-Sea his riches swum in) and iust, in respect of the golden harueſt, his Wifes Penny, and the Marriners counsell brought him; He not onely, very nobly, freely, and chearefully deliuered an hundred pounds as his Wifes gift, but to shew how much hee desired to make her ioyes full in all things, hee lent one hundred pound more to Theobald, without script or scrowle, to be payd him, when it should please the heauens to command the winds and the waues, to send him home, a merry, a prosperous, and a wealthy voyager.

Theobald with infinite thankes for these vndeserued courtesies on her part, and vnexpected on his, acknowledges his life euer to be their debter; and so in a very short time (hauing so many golden starres to sayle by) away puts he to Sea: where we will leaue him carefully, industriously, and like a toyling Ant, prouiding sufficient in the Summer of his youth, how to maintaine him in the winter of his age.

And now let vs cast our eyes once more vpon Ferdinand and Annabell, who grew vp in Britton, (like two faire trees) looked at by all, admired by all, and loued by all. That reputation of his, which ran aground at London, is in Britton fetcht off safely from all shelfes, and sandes: a harlot vnlad his fortunes there, a wife restores them here. His former Riots, are now turned to good husbandry, his feasting in Tauernes, to a cuill entertainement in his owne house, his roaring boyes

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companyes, to a braue society of Merchants, and his roaging beggerly noyses of scraping Fidlers, to the most excellent musicke of swæt and harmlesse stories told betwæne him and his wife, or els, to the cunning touch of her hand vpon the stringes of her Lute, guided by the ecchoes of a rauishing voice, in both of which shæ exceeded euen skilfull Musitians. What woundes hæ got in his estate by borrowing, hæ now cured by paying euery penny: so that vpon his word hæ might either in Bristow or London, haue taken vp more money, then many that caryed their heads higher in the Aire, and more proudly iet on the Stage of opinion, could procure vpon their bondes.

Abundance filled his bagges, rich Merchandise his Cellers and Warehouses, Cupboords of plate waited on his Table, and both Men-seruants, and Mayd-seruants on him and his wife; superfluitie of all worldly blessings, thus casting his youthfull mind into a surfet: hæ began not onely to be weary of Bristow, but of his owne naturall countrey, burning with an immoderate and vnquenchable desire to trauell beyond the Seas, to come acquainted with the manners, fashions, and conditions of forren nations. The bellows that kindled these flames within him, were the praises giuen to him by young Merchants and gallants that had trauelled, of the delicate faces of other women abroad, of their queint dressings, curious attires, and most bewitching complements our english Ladies, and Merchants wives of London being but course creatures, dowdyes and doddipolls, either to the Germaine Frow, the french petty, pailying Madamoiselle, or the cherrylipd, wanton-eyed, plump, Italian, Vena Ricke, and besides these Spurres of longings clapd to his hales to set him going; his wife (albeit a delicate creature) began (after this frenzy of dreaming after other women, though hæ neuer saw them) not to leaue so much as in his eyes as shæ was

wont or if ſhe did, lett our owne paſture be never ſo fatt, never ſo full, never ſuch wholeſome feeding, wee thinke our neighbours better, though farre worſe. As in Tauernes, when fault is found in the wine, though there be none in it, If the drawer goes but to change it, and brings the ſame againe O cryes all the company, now drawer thou haſt gon right indeed: ſo that the ſick part about vs is our opinion; tis our iudgement is poiſned.

Ferdinand therefore being thus (as it were) with childe to ſee faſhions abroad, could finde no eaſe in minde or body vntill he fell into Trauell; and for that purpoſe, he fraighted a Ship with rich and vendible commodities to be ſent to Venice, and himſelfe to goe as Chiefe in her.

His wife was much againſt his going, ſhee feard her bird whom ſhee had kept ſo long, getting now out of the Cage, would fly ſhe knew not whither, and grow wilde. But he ſhewing many reaſons for his venturing in perſon, as that it was hard truſting Factors, his gaines might be trebled by his being there; the eye of the Maſter fatts the Horſe: It would beſides the double profit, returne to his minde an infinite pleaſure to behold other Cities, other people, and converſe with other Merchants: his knowledge would hereby growe perfect, his experience be confirmed, and that little knowledge he hath in the Italian tongue be much bettered, his ambition having euer borne to be cunning in that language. Theſe reaſons and others, being put into the ballance, weighed downe her feares, and ſo ſhe yeilded at length to let him goe.

Ferdinand (hauing winde and water, as ſwift as his owne wiſhes) in a ſhort time arriued at Venice (one of the wonders, for a City, in the world, as hauing the foundation layd in, and the whole frame of the building raiſed out of the Mediteranean Sea.) His commodities being excellent good, and exceeding rich, dwelt not long in the

ſhippe

chippe, But on Siluerpullies were drawne into Venetian-merchants houſes, who payd him downe for them preſently: ſo that his purſe was ſoone full, but his eyes and longings empty, of inioying the Rarities of that renowned Citie. Some few dayes made him Maſter of them all: The Rialta was as familiar to him, as the Exchange in Cornehill is to Merchants, or the new Barſe in the Strand is to Courtiers, and Lawyers: Saint Markes Church, hee knew as well as Paules Staple, and the Murano, where all the Venice-glaſſes are made, hee viſited more often then Vintners doe the glaſſe houſe in Broadſtreete, to furniſh them ſelues there with theſe brittle carowſing bowles. The Arſenale, (which is a Store-houſe, to arme both men, and gallyes with all warlike prouiſion) by mony and friendſhip, he went into with deſire, and came forth with admiration. The many thouſands of bridges, which croſſe euery ſtreete through the whole Citie, put him into as much wonder, as London bridge did a Northren man, who at firſt gaping at it, ſware hee thought in his conſcience it coſt aboue fortie ſhillings.

His eyes could neuer haue beene bleardshotten had they onely fed vpon theſe obiects: as it was no hurt for him to looke vpon wood, and ſtone, and workemen: nor to haue beene caryed in one of their Venetian Gundeloes, rowing vp and downe the riuer (that embraces the Citie) called the Grand Canale. None of theſe inticing flowers caryed poiſon in their ſent. No: As before in London hee was inſnard by one Engliſh whore, ſo here found hee ten thouſand Venetian Courtizans, the worſt of them all, hauing ſorcery enough in her eyes and behauior, to inchant him. With the butterfly hee flew from herbe to herbe, and from wood to wood, but in the end alighted vpon one, which he liked aboue all the reſt. Here he ſtayed, Here hee ſet vp his reſt. It was a creature ſufficiently faire, had ſhe beene indifferently

good

good and reſonably good ſhee might haue beene, but that the cuſtome of the countrey (which authorizeth Bawdery) makes her belæue, it is not ſinne in her, ſo to ſell and proſtitute her body, and in her body her ſoule.

You talke of the poore Catz-mountaines in Turnebull, who venture vpon the pikes of damnation for ſinglemoney; and you wonder at the fethered Eſtridges in Weſtminſter, Strand, Bloomsbury &c. how they can liue; where theſe Venetian Madonaes, carry the ports of Ladyes, liue in houſes faire enough to entertaine Lords. Into ſuch a lodging was Fernando receiued, vpon ſuch a Curtizan did he faſten his luſtfull affection.

No gold was ſpared to warme her white hands with the fires of ſuch ſparckling Sunne-beames: No muſick kept dumb by her whoſe voice ſhee knew would entice him to heare it. This Strumpets name was Liuia Ferramonti, well-deſcended, and therefore taught by her education, how to winne, and how to hold faſt, when once ſhee had a man in her nets. Her behauiour was pleaſing, her complements courtly, her apparence Stately, yet how ſtrongly-guarded ſoeuer this Caſtle of beauty, ſeemed by her eyes, (in ſhew disdainefull) and a tongue proud in parlies, yet Fernand mounting his ſiluer Ordinance, chargde with golden bullets, the Fort of womaniſh frailty, quickly yeilded, but vpon this compoſition, that hee ſhould ſuffer no other Italian dame but herſelfe ſhare in her embraces; Iealozie is a booke that all our Italian dames, and ſignioꝛs reade, and if (quoth ſhe) you euer giue me cauſe to open that booke (ſtrung with yellow ribbon) I ſhal giue you cauſe to curſe my acquaintance, and you wil teach me hereafter to hate foꝛ euer an Engliſhman. Hee told her, (nay moſt vehemently proteſted, by the faith of a gentleman, and by all thoſe fires burning in the breaſt of a Louer,) that ſhe ſhould haue no cauſe to ſpeake to him that language. And ſo, ſhee (being a Merchanteſſe foꝛ the fleſh, and to ſell her ware, as

deare

deare as ſhe could hold it vp) agréed with Ferdinand, that for 500 crownes a moneth, hee ſhould Inioy her body, her bed, her houſe, and all that belonged to her command. The greateſt Magnifico in Venice (ſhee told him) would bee glad to bee ſharer with two more, and ſo inioy her by tournes, yet each of them to allow her ſo poore a Summe: nay the braueſt Clariſſimo, to inioy her, as now ſhee comes to him, (alone) would into her Apron euery moneth caſt a thouſand crownes, but hee being an engliſhman, and gratious in her eye, ſhee would craue but that ſlender hire: It being the cuſtome of Venice, that whatſoeuer a Courtizan, and a whoremaſter bargaynes for, (be it for a day, a night, a weeke, a moneth, or a yeare) ſhee has law on her ſide to recouer it, and make him pay it, and ſhe is his (for that time) as abſolutely as a beaſt bought in Smythfield, or a rotten ioynt of mutton ſold at pye-corner: Her Enamorato being likewiſe (during the continuance of this agreemẽt) more ſure of his Italiã hackney, thã many engliſhmen are of their wiues, though a houſhold full of eyes be fixed vpon them; for if ſhee flyes out from him to any other, an action at the caſe here is nothing to that caſe, which the Bona roba, ſhall be in there, if once ſhee be found faulty: moneths, and moneths were conſumed in libidinous and adulterous embraces, by theſe two; Ferdinand, euer and anon, ſending into England ſome ſlight Italian toyes to his wife with letters, expreſſing his great care to increaſe his eſtate, kept him ſo long from her, and that the delight hee tooke in ſeeing thoſe Cities, and noble entertainement hee found amongſt thoſe Merchants, had caryed him vp higher into the countrey, but that hee would ſhorten his iourney and cut off much of his imployment, out of a deſire to be agen in the armes of his Annabell.

Shee good ſoule believed all this, vpon receipt of her husbands letters; but he intended no ſuch matter. Hee

was too faſt entangled in the allurements of a Wanton, and too farre engaged in purſe and reputation to get off without exceeding loſſe, if not danger of life. For when an Italian Strumpet feeles her Lover flying from her, and in diſdaine leaving her, a poyſoned banquet, or a ſtab from a Panderly Bravo, ſome ends her diſcontentment.

But our Briſtow Merchant was too farre plunged in affection, to fall off, or grow cold in deſires to her, upon whoſe beauties he did more than doate: And therefore to ſhew that he was a right Engliſhman, who will venture life and living, and all that hee hath in the world, before hee will loſe his Wench, hee not onely (more than his bargaine tyed him, of 500. crownes a moneth) had in banquets, coſtly Dinners and Suppers, and rich new Gownes and Tires for her, ſpent a world of money upon her: but alſo, (the faſter as he thought to tye her to him, though he could not eaſily ſhake her off) hee beſtowed a company of admirable faire Jewels upon his deareſt Livia.

Faire were thoſe Jewels in outward ſhew (as the wearer of them was) but many (or rather moſt) of the Stones were counterfet. For Ferdinand, by meanes of keeping company with many brave Italian Merchants, came acquainted with a Venetian Jew, (whoſe name was Caleb Mololomon. This Jewe was wonderous wealthy and wonderous wary, and as wicked in his wayes to get mony (eſpecially from Chriſtians) as any of his Hebrew tribes could be. Ferdinand came oft to his houſe, and was as often welcommed, but this feaſt of Jewiſh welcomes ſhould be payd for at laſt in the tale of the reckoning. Mololomo had abundance of as coſtly, true, and preticus Jewels of all faſhions, as could be made, or bought for gold and ſilver in the world, for it was his trade to deale with moſt Princes in Chriſtendome by his Factors for ſuch Commodities; but as

amongſt

amongſt men and women ſome are good, ſome bad: So Caleb (our ſubtill Jew) perceiuing Ferdinand to be an vnthrift, that his Ships rich lading was ſwallowed vp, in a Venetian gulph, (a Venetian Whore) and that to fill ſuch a Barne, a foole cared not, what corne field hee reaped, nor from whoſe Sheafes he ſtole (were it but a handfull) hee ſaw he would ſinke, and therefore to rid him out of his paine, hee would tye ſome of his Plummets to his heeles. Hereupon, ſhewing one day, to our Briſtow Lapidarie (that dealt in none but falſe Stones) a goodly heape of counterfet Jewels, (as faire to the eye, as any that were worne in Italy, and the falſhood not eaſie to be found out, but by a very cunning workman) hee liked them ſo well, that being wondrous importunate to buy them, albeit the Jew held them at an vnreaſonable rate, yet he had them for Time, a Bond being drawne to pay to Mololomon, double the value, if he had not his mony iuſt vpon the day. The match pleaſed them both, the Jew laughed in his ſleeue, to ſee how hee had ouer-reached a leacherous Chriſtian, and the other as proudly haſted to his Italian Hen-Sparrow, to ſhew what coſtly and glorious Feathers he had bought to ſtick her with; the Jewels were with thouſands of thanks receiued, and as many kiſſes payd backe to him on his lips, which he accepted as a ſufficient ſatisfaction.

The day of payment for theſe Jewels being come, the Jew (as buſie as a Kite ouer his prey) ſoares ouer Ferdinands lodging, ſtill looking when the money would be tendred: but a day or two being paſt ouer, and no Caſh appearing, Caleb leapes for ioy, that now he ſhall haue the double: the Forfaiture to him would be as a feaſt; a Chriſtian to lye in Priſon at his Suite, was a brauer triumph than when Turkiſh Gallies boord Engliſh Pirates: he ſweares by his Hebrew Tribe from whence he is deſcended: hee will flea him aliue with miſeries, if he hath not his monies: not a Chriſtian

Farthing of Copper, or Brasse, no, not an olde Leaden Chandlers Token should be abated.

An Officer, (nay a whole kennell of Hounds are let loose to seize upon him, and to dragge him to Prison. But Ferdinand being an English-man, and understanding by his experience of London and Brittow, what it was to fall into Catchpoles hands, and how such Beagles where they fastned, did not onely bite, but draw bloud, kept himselfe out of the way, so that Ben Motolomen was ready to runne mad with anger: that Jewes-trump in his mouth (his tongue) playd nothing but curses, his great nose swell'd twice so much as it was before, by his thumping and plucking it, almost off from his face, in rage, to thinke he should be so cousoned by a wenching Rascall, a Christian Whoremaster, and yet he said to himselfe, It was no wonder for him to be so gull'd, sithense was too well knowne that English-men are as cunning as any Cheaters in the world.

In this interim of Ferdinand his wasting of his youth, his estate, and his honour, and the hazarding both of life and soule upon an enticing Strumpet; Done signior Iouanni Gentiones returne to Venice from travell: hee had before he went, made choise (amongst all the faces in that City) of this Liuia Feramista to be his Mistresse,

She perceiuing by the Jew, and others of whom Ferdinand had taken up round summes of money, how the windes blew, and that the breath of his fortunes grew colder and colder, and being glad to heare that Iouanni was come home, writ a few wanton, but witty Verses, (for the Italian Women are excellent in those qualities) to welcome him from Travell, and to invite him to her lodging, unknowne to her English friend, who now hung the wing, as being full of sicke feathers.

A stately Banquet (the appointed evening) was prepared at the Curtizans house, to which Signior Iouanni, attended vpon with one man onely, came, with resolution to renew his loue to his sweetest Mistresse, and that night to pay such tribute to her embraces, as was due to her by his so long absence.

Ferdinand not daring in the day to walke the streetes, came muffled in his cleake in the darke, with a Rapier by his side, to kill his Lady; and spying euery roome so full of lights, as if all the Starres had forsake the Skie, to come and shine in her lodging, and (withall) hearing admirable voyces and instruments within, for shee had prounded all content, to please Iouanni: Ferdinand boldly knock'd at doore, presuming he had payd deare enough for the opening of her Wicket.

A Bragot or ruffianly her Bawde, comes, and tels him, there was no Cullion for him to sit vpon to night; another was made Doore of his Italian Chaire; the King-ale which he cam'd to cut vp, was to be serv'd vp, and be laid on a Venetian Gentlemans Trencher (this Signior Iouanni was Guidanes, Sonne to rich Antonio Guidanes, one of the chiefest Clarissimo's) and so bidding him to be packing, or if he were so hot for a Whore, there were enough i'th Citty, and if hee could not fall vpon them, Stand there still and coole his heeles, and (with that) shut the doores vpon him.

Iealousie and Reuenge, the Furies that haunt euery Italian, layd hold (vpon this base affront of the Pandar) on Ferdinand, the custome of the people, and the inconstancy of the Women, teaching (as an Strangers, if they do all but a while stay) enough them, to snatch the Incke-standes out of those (vnto whose hands, and to be as mindfull of the Venetians as their

ſelues. Taking therefore this aleſe offered to him by the Brauo, for an act of the Miſtris, as knowing her durſt not haue done ſo without her conſent, hee vowes to kill this Iouanni, whatſoeuer hee ſhould be, leauing his body at her very dores, as the monument of a Strumpets falſehood, and an engliſhmans noble reuenge vpon a corriuall, and this done by the ayde of darknes to eſcape, get a gundelo, and ſo ſhifting from Venice to fly firſt into France, ouer the Alpes, & after that into England. For this purpoſe the Spleneſull Ferdinand, walkes vp and downe, watching when this gallant ſhould come forth; but hee was too faſt locked in his Miſtreſſes armes, to take any danger from a naked rapier: yet going to bedde with his beloued Madona, hee commanded his man to get him to his lodging, and attend for him next morning.

The fellow being lighted out of dores, and Ferdinand, who ſtaid watching, not knowing the Maſter from the man, tooke this to bee the gentleman that wronged him, and ſo running at him, the glimpſe of the candle made him ſpie the weapon, which nimbly though hee put by, yet was hee wounded in two or three places, murder then being cryed, and more candles being held out at ſeuerall windowes, the ſeruant that was hurt, was carryed off, and Ferdinand haled to priſon.

The next morning, criminall Iudges hauing the examination of this buſineſſe, the Brauo giuing in euidence that he came to his Miſtreſſes houſe, to quarrell, and doe ſome miſchiefe, and Ferdinand being halfe mad that his reuenge fell ſo vnluckily on a poore vnworthy fellow, his aime being (as hee confeſt freely) to haue ſped that Iouanni, who lodged there that night, in the armes of a Strumpet, whoſe fleſh hee had bought, and paid dearely for: the matter then

grew

greiu moze foiule in that beſides the drawing blood from one, his intent was to murder another, yea and to murder ſuch a gentleman ſo nobly deſcended as Guidanci was, foz the loue, which all Venice bare, both to father, and ſonne, the whole ſenate ſet a heauy fine on Ferdinands head, foz his intent of murder, and albeit the fellowes wounds were not mozrtall, yet was hæ (beſides a dome of impziſonment) adiudged to pay foz the cure, and to ſatisfie the ſeruant foz his hurts.

The Iew (hearing of this impziſonment) laughed, and leaped foz ioy, that the great fiſh was taken, which brake thzough his net, but fithence hæ was in, hæ would weare out his fingers ends, with tying knots, but hæ ſhould be faſt enough, and ſo lay an Action vpon him of 14000. crowns.

Hee then hoping foz all this to finde ſome comfoz at his Miſtriſſes hands, writ in Italian to hei, but ſhæ vnderſtood not his language: to him ſhee could not ſend, (without loſing an Italian friend woꝛth fiue ty Engliſh) and come to him ſhæ would not.

Vpon this, caſting his eyes backe at his foze-paſſed foztunes, and his now pzeſent miſeries, hæ began to thinke that heauen had iuſtly layd this ſhame and theſe croſſes vpon him, foz not ſtill making vſe of that counſell which the Marriner in ſhape of a Beggar, gaue to him foz his wifes ſingle Penny: had hee followed it, comming to this Curtizan in Venice, as hæ did when hæ tryed that other in England, hee had neuer met ſuch occaſion to curſe his folly, in making himſelfe a mockery to all his countrymen, eſpecially to Merchants, but mou eſpecially to the Merchants in Bꝛiſtow. To call to minde the wzongs done to his wife, was to him moze then a death to thinke what ſummes of money hi li ſt, and riot had in Venice conſumed, euery piece of ſiluer fetched drops

of

of blood from his heart. Hee that flung away pounds, would now begge of a penny: hee wished himselfe in his owne Country, euen in some high way begging one single farthing, with no worse accomodation than those poore wretches, his countrymen doe, that so liue vpon good mens charity: would hee (hee cryes out) had liued so euer: hee should not then answere for the hauing wasting of that, which was sufficient to maintaine thousands, where now, the remembrance of those fond expences as much torment his soule, as the want of the money afflicts his body; happy, he protests, are those that begging a farthing token, and making vp, foure of them, peraduenture it now in England by a good fire, with a cappe of strong drink in their hand, where I in this noisome and stinking dungeon, would be glad of cleane water to quench my thirst, and of a coale of fire to blow my nayles ouer.

Being driuen almost to the very dores of despaire, by these miseries, the last refuge hee had was to send for his wife from Bristow, and to perswade her with all possible speede to turne all the estate hee left with her, all his plate, all her chaynes, rings, and Iewells, yea euen to sell all his household-stuffe, to turne it into money, and if euer shee loued him, now to shew it, by redeeming him from a miserable captiuity: That word, if euer shee did loue him, was a charme strong enough to make her fly ouer worlds of waters, and wildernesses of land to finde him out, and found, to set him at liberty, and being free from Iewes, Harlots, hard-hearted Christians, to lay him in her warme bosome, to forgiue whats past, to vpbrayd him with nothing, and in his wants to loue him as dearely, as euer shee did in his greatest abundance. And all this did the vertuous woman (his wife.)

Suppose then you see them both come frō beyond seas

ſeas, not ſo beaten with windes and waues, as bitten by hunger. His diſſolute courſes cauſing all his owne friends to ſcorne to caſt an eye of pitty on him, and the conſtant loue ſhee carryed to her diſtreſſed husband, taking from her friends all deſire to helpe or comfort her, leſt ſhee ſhould be a ſharer in thoſe benefits. So that not a Sunne-beame of compaſſion ſhining from any friends, kindred, or acquaintance vpon either of them, in the end they both, (by the interceſſion, and teares, and modeſt countenance of the woman, got to be truſted with a few pipes, a little tobacco, and a ſmall narrow ſhop, which was both their hall, bed-chamber, kitchin and Cellar.

This was but a poore liuing for him, that had wont to fraight ſhips with rich commodities, now to ſit filling a pipe of tobacco; and for a penny, that ſingle penny comes oft in to his minde, and vpbrayds him with his ill husbandry. The world is changed with him, it runs not now vpon wheeles, as once it did: hee that was wont to make Tauernes roare with the noiſe of gallon pots, and drawers to run vp ſtayres, and downe ſtayres, crying anon, anon, onely at his call, is now glad without any roaring or noyſe-making, to be any mans drawer for a penny-pot of ale: his braue fires in a Taueme chimney, are turn'd to a little panne of ſmall coales, ouer which hee ſits blowing, to light his cuſtomers pipes; his riotous dinners and ſuppers are forgotten, and inſtead of them, a poore dinner of ſprats, now and then, for fiſh dayes, and a ſheepes Geather or a ſheepes head on fleſhdayes, and very good cheere too: in former times, neither hee or his wife could tell what a faſting day meant, but now they could hardly meete with any other; and albeit a man that has euer gon with full pockets, continually fed at full tables, and neuer felt what want was, could not without much repining, curſing, and diſdaine, vndergoe ſo low and wretched a courſe of life: yet with ſuch a noble patience did his vertuous wife,

both beare her owne sorrowes, and counselled him not to sinck vnder his, that hee by her example was as louiall, in this his pouerty, as euer before hee was in plenty, and (how great soeuer their wants were knowen to themselues) yet would shee sett a good face vpon't, and not once shew a sad or heauy countenance, for feare to displease, or discomfort her husband.

It was a wonder to see, and heare, how people would descant vpon these two, for their making shift to liue in this order: Some laughed him to scorne, and said, pride had now caught a fall, the Peacocks fethers were plucked, and such like, others were glad to see him take any honest course to liue, considering in what high bravery hee spread his sailes before, but all persons (both men and women, did mightily commend the wife, who in all these misfortunes was neuer seene to knit a browe, or heard to vpbrayd her husband with any of his dissolute former courses, by which they were both brought to this beggery. It being then bruited vp and downe the City, that Ferdinand, the braue young Merchant that came from Brittow, was fallen to decay, and liude in that meane manner as you haue heard before, a gentleman who knew him when hee was in his Jollity, and had taken notice of the state hee was in now, came to the Courtizan vpon whom hee spent so much in London, when he called her Mistris, and as a most strange newes told her, that her seruant Ferdinand, (whom she followed to Bristow) was in London, but exceeding poore. A pox on him quoth shee) so when I was in Brittow, hee put a trick vpon mee, and came like a roague to mee in his plymouth-cloake, and cheated mee of all the rings, Jewells, bracelets, and any thing of any worth, that euer he gaue me, sending me home like a sheepe new shorne with scarce any wooll on my back: why then said the gentleman, hees payd in the same cracked money, which hee deliuered to you; Yea that shaued is now shauen,

and

and ſo cloſe cut, that what woull, you carryed on your back, I know not, but I feare hee has ſcarce woull, or skin on his back, for hee is ſo poore that his wife and he are glad to keepe a tobacco-ſhop: a tobacco-ſhop (cryed his quondam Miſtris) O ſtrang. It ſhall neuer be ſaid, that I ſeiued a man, in his brauery, and would not take vpō him in his neceſſity, the iniury he did me at Briſtow, I deſerued it, and pardon it: his wrongs I forget, but not him, the many iouiall dayes and nights hee and I haue ſpent together, are ſo freſhly, and deepely printed in my memory, that if I ſhould not with gladneſſe call them to minde, I would count my ſelfe ingratefull. It ſhall neuer be reported that a man, a gentleman, a noble-minded young fellow, ſpent his money vpon mee, when hee was full of golden pieces, and let them fly, but now hee wants thoſe pieces, and is become poore, I will ſpend part of what I haue, vpon him. This is not the common humor of mad wenches (ſuch as I am) about the Citie, that get their liuing by the labour of their thighes, and care not ſo they ſuck mens eſtates (like their bodies) to the bare bones: I am altred from the creature, I was at Briſtow. and ſo, intreating the gentleman, to direct her to the ſhoppe which Ferdinand kept, ſhee making herſelfe very gallant, went thither, whom hee beholding, bluſhed, as red as fire, for ſhame ſhee came vpon him ſo vnwares, into ſo homely a roome, his wife and hee being ſo meanely habited: But this Miſtris of his, (being a wench of a luſty ſpirit) ſtept to his wife, and kiſſing her, told her, ſhee was come to begge pardon for a robbery ſhee had committed, in ſtealing away her husband, ſome dayes from her board, and ſome nights from her pillow: but proteſts hee ſhall neuer play the truant more with her: is ſorry for what was paſt, and wiſhes hee had layd out his riots at no worſe a market in Venice, then hee met with, in London, and that his Italian banquet had beene no dearer then that which

shee inuited him to in England. Annabell in a milde voice, tels her partner, that shee has crost the backs of all former reckonings: the debt of her anger (both at her, and her husband) is all payd, shee forgiues them both, so, they runne no more vpon a new score with her, which both of them vow neuer to doe, and then the Courtizan sweating likewise neuer againe to breake into her orchard, to steale away those apples, which are for her owne eating, nor if shee can helpe it, neuer hereafter to come into the company of her husband, in some part of satisfaction towards all expences betweene them, shee deliuers to his wife as a free gift, twenty Pieces, and so takes her leaue in this vnexpected kindnesse, conquering all ill opinion conceiued against her, and that small summe of money of twenty peices, redeeming all the lauish spendings vpon his Curtis, and making more amends to Ferdinands wife, then all his riotous layings out, did doe her hurt before.

Misfortunes seldome walke alone, and so when blessings doe knocke at a mans doore, they lightly are not without followers and fellowes. For vnlt vpon this golden visitation (not vsually put in practice by creatures of her quality) came home Theobald, the Mariner from Sea, vpon whom our Bristow Merchant at his Wifes request, bestowed one hunded pound, for the good he receiued by the single Penny; and trusted him with another hundred pound to be repayed, if euer heauens should send him a Boone voyage, that he might be able to spare it: With those two hundred pounds this Mariner playing the good Husband beyond the Seas, in Barbary, and other places within the Straights, had so encreased his Stocke, that hee was esteemed a rich man, and his credite very good vpon the Exchange: He coming to this Tobacco-Shop, his face much sunne-burnt with trauell, and his cheekes growne ouer with haire, called for a Pipe of smoake, and was not knowne. Ferdinand

dinand perceiuing by his taun'd completion, and habite, that he was a Sea-man, aſked in what part of the world he had lately beene, and the other replying, both in Barbary, and ſome other places within the Straights, Ferdinand prayes him to tell him, if hee knowes not one Theobald, and whether he ſaw him not in Barbary, yes (quoth Theobald) I both knew him, and ſaw him; but now he's paſt either my knowledge or ſight in this world, for theſe very hands help'd to bury him in the bottome of the Sea, where he dyed. Ferdinand ſtarted at this, and looking pale, with a deepe ſigh from his heart, expreſt a great deale of ſorrow for the loſſe of ſo faithfull and honeſt a friend; and his Wife hearing the ſad Storie, clapping her hand on her knee (as ſhe ſate) O ſweet heart (ſaid ſhe) if Theobald be gone, the beſt of our hopes lye a dying: for it was likely, if euer heauen had proſpered him, he would not haue ſtowne himſelfe vnthankfull to you or to me, for the courteſies you and I did him. No remedy (quoth her Husband) wee muſt all dye one day, and ſince one of our beſt Cards is out of the bunch, let vs ſhuffle and cut in the world as well as wee can: one good, true friend as he was, (reckoning the treachery amongſt men in theſe dayes) is worth a rocke of Diamonds, and though we are cheated of him by death, yet let vs two be true to one another, for the loue of man and wife is the nobleſt friendſhip.

By this time, our Marriner, or rather now our Merchant, had whiff'd off three Pipes of Tobacco, for which he was to pay three pence. And drawing out a whole handfull of gold, told them, he had no white mony, & they could not change any one peece; yet looking in another pocket, hee aſked if they would take Tokens, yes (ſaid Ferdinand) they are as welcome to mee now, as Angels and double Soueraines haue beene in diebus illis, in my mad dayes, (for I haue ſpent ſome.) The other then told him, he could make but eight Tokens, and that was

but two pence, a penny leſſe than his due; no matter Sir (anſwered our new Tobacco-man) for his ſake whom you ſay you knew, and ſaw him buried at Sea, let it alone, you ſhall pay nothing, and if you pleaſe, drinke as much more: nay, cryed tother, ſhall I goe a'th ſcore, or drinke in forma pauperis, my Pockets hauing ſuch gay lynings in them.

See, ſir, I now can make vp your money, for there's eight Tokens, and a ſingle penny in ſiluer (I take you) tyed with a ſtring through the hole in it, for feare of running away, and I can tell you, I part very vnwillingly with that Penny: Ferdinand and his Wife ſeeing the ſilke ſtring, and noting the Penny, O (cryed ſhe) husband, this is the ſingle Penny you had of me, when you went to Sea, and which afterwards you tyed about his arme that is dead. I did indeede (ſaid he) and he ſwore, it ſhould neuer from his arme, ſo long as there was any breath in his body.

He was as good as his word then (replyed Theobald) for when he yeelded vp the ghoſt, I (as before he bid me) tooke it from his arme: And becauſe you ſhall know I am no counterfet Meſſenger, looke vpon me well, hath my kiſſing the ſunne ſo altred my face, I am that Theobald, this is the ſame Penny, for which you gaue me an hundred pound in gold, for the good it did you: that Penny hath done me good too, I am a made man by it, and ſhall not onely my ſelfe euer loue a Penny, but counſell euery man elſe to make much of a Penny when he hath it. It is a Beggers ſtock, and a rich mans ſteward-ſhip. You my noble Captaine, and worthy Maſter, made one lucky Voyage with it, and brought home Wittes for it, (though ſince I heare, by your trauelling without it, you came home a loſer:) I haue made another Voyage with the ſame Penny, and praiſe be giuen to heauen, I haue brought home wealth by it: Much am I in your debt, but am come honeſtly to pay you all; you beſtowed this

ſingle

ſingle Penny vpon me, when you take me for a Begger, I returne your owne Penny backe againe vpon you, whom I now take, not to be very rich: the one hundred pound my good Miſtreſſe wild you to giue me, behold I lay for them an hundred golden pictures in her lap, with the other hundred pound you truſted me with, to be payd, when the Seas and I playing together, I ſhould get a lucky hand: that houres come, I now haue it, and all that I am owner of, comming to mee by your meanes, not onely euery Penny that is mine ſhall be yours, but euery pound be ſent of an errand to fetch in profit. Hee was as good as his word, for he lent them ſo much money, as put him againe into his trade of Merchandize, and at this houre is he a very worthy Merchant in London.

FINIS.

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